IN THE CLAIMS:

1   Claim 1. (original) A method comprising:
2   employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second
3   web server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server uses a
4   first user tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores
5   the client information as a client record in a database;
6   the first web server directing a client to access a resource at
7   the second Web-Server;
8   said resource encapsulating information about a location of the
9   client record in the database;
10   the second web server decapsulating the location and retrieving
11   the client record from the database; and
12   the second web server using the client record in conjunction with
13   a second user tracking mechanism.

1   Claim 2. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first
2   and the second user tracking mechanisms use cookies for storing the
3   user client information.

1   Claim 3. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first
2   web server authenticates the client, and the client record includes
3   user authentication data enabling the second web server to use a common
4   sign-on with the sign-on of the first web server.

1   Claim 4. (original) A method as recited in 1, wherein the first
2   web server stores within the client record at least one parameter which
3   determines at least one characteristic of at least one page to be sent
4   to the client by the second web server.

1   Claim 5. (previously presented) A method as recited in 4,
2   wherein said at least one parameter includes at least one user
3   preference.

1   Claim 6. (original) A method as recited in 5, wherein said at
2   least one user preference is related to at least one detected
3   purchasing habit.

1   Claim 7. (previously presented) A method comprising:
2   employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second
3   web server in a second DNS domain,
4   enabling said first and second web servers to share cookie

5   information;

6   coordinating cookies across said first and second domains;

7   storing a client record in a database by the first web server;

8   and

9   creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates

10   information about a location of the client record in the database.

1   Claim 8. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the

2   step of coordinating is performed by a cookie coordinator accessible to

3   said first and second Web-Servers.

1   Claim 9. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, further

2   comprising providing a cookie coordinator accessible to said first and

3   second Web-Servers to perform the step of coordinating.

1   Claim 10. (original) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein

2   the step of enabling includes the first web server setting a first

3   cookie having a first identity and the second web server setting a

4   second cookie having a second identity, and the step of coordinating

5   maps the first and second identities to a third identity shared across

6   said first and second domains.

1   Claim 11. (original) An apparatus comprising:

2   means for employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and

3   a second web server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web

4   server uses a first user tracking mechanism to collect client

5   information and stores the client information as a client record in a

6   database;

7   means for the first web server directing a client to access a

8   resource at the second web server;

9   means for said resource encapsulating information about a

10   location of the client record in the database;

11   means for the second web server decapsulating the location and

12   retrieving the client record from the database; and

13   means for the second web server using the client record in

14   conjunction with a second user tracking mechanism.

1   Claim 12. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a

2   computer usable medium having computer readable program code means

3   embodied therein for causing coordination of a first user tracking

4   mechanism in a first web server and a second user tracking mechanism in

5   a second web-server, the computer readable program code means in said

6   article of manufacture comprising computer readable program code means

7   for causing a computer to effect the steps of claim 1.

1   Claim 13. (original) An article of manufacture comprising a

2   computer usable medium having computer readable program code means

3   embodied therein for causing coordination of a first user tracking

4   mechanism in a first web server and a second user tracking mechanism in

5   a second web-server, the computer readable program code means in said

6   article of manufacture comprising computer readable program code means

7   for causing a computer to effect the steps of claim 7.

1   Claim 14. (original) A method comprising:

2   employing a first user tracker in a first domain, and a second

3   user tracker in a second domain, wherein the first user tracker uses a

4   first user tracking mechanism to collect client information and stores

5   the client information as a client record in a database;

6   the first user tracker directing a client to access a resource at

7   the second user tracker;

8   said resource encapsulating information about a location of the

9   client record in the database;

10   the second user tracker decapsulating the location and retrieving

11   the client record from the database; and

12   the second user tracker using the client record in conjunction

13   with a second user tracking mechanism.

1   Claim 15. (original) A program storage device readable by

2   machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the

3   machine to perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps

4   comprising the steps of claim 1.

1   Claim 16. (original) A program storage device readable by

2   machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the

3   machine to perform method steps for using cookies, said method steps

4   comprising the steps of claim 7.

1   Claim 17. (original) A computer program product comprising a

2   computer usable medium having computer readable program code means

3   embodied therein for causing tracking of users, the computer readable

4   program code means in said computer program product comprising computer

5 readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the

6 functions of claim 11.

1   Claim 18. (previously presented) A method comprising:

2   employing a first web server in a first DNS domain, and a second

3 web server in a second DNS domain, wherein the first web server

4 maintains a first private cookie at a browser and the second web server

5 maintains a second private cookie at the browser;

6   accessing a cookie coordinator when the first private cookie is

7 received by the first web-server;

8   mapping a first identity in the first private cookie and a second

9 identity in the second private cookie to a single identity common

10 across the multiple domains;

11   storing a client record in a database by the first web server;

12 and

13   creating a link to the second web server that encapsulates

14 information about a location of the client record in the database.

1   Claim 19. (original) A method as recited in claim 18, further

2 comprising:

3   using the single identity to look up the identity of users across

4 the different domains, and

5   the cookie coordinator learning the mapping of the various

6 cookies that are placed independently on the browser by the different

7 servers.

1   Claim 20. (original) A program storage device readable by

2 machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the

3 machine to perform method steps for tracking users, said method steps

4 comprising the steps of claim 18.

1   Claim 21. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

2   a web server interface to interface with a first web server in a

3 first DNS domain and to interface a second web server in a second DNS

4 domain;

5   said first web server having:

6   a first user tracker to collect client information and

7 store client information as a client record in a cookie coordinator

8 database;

9   a redirector for the first web server to direct a client to

10 access a resource at the second web server;

11   an encapsulator for said resource to encapsulate
12 information about a location of the client record in the database; and
13   said second web server having:
14   a second user tracker for the second web server to use the
15 client record in conjunction with a second user tracking mechanism; and
16   a decapsulator for the second web server to decapsulate a
17 location and retrieve the client record from the database.

1   Claim 22. (original) A computer program product comprising a
2   computer usable medium having computer readable program code means
3   embodied therein for causing tracking of users, the computer readable
4   program code means in said computer program product comprising computer
5   readable program code means for causing a computer to effect the
6   functions of claim 21.

1   Claim 23. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2   1, further comprising:
3   wherein the database is a cookie coordination database; and
4   wherein directing the client to access the resource at the second
5   Web-Server includes sending the client a link to the second Web-Server.

1   Claim 24. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2   1, wherein directing the client to access the resource at the second
3   Web-Server includes sending a HTTP response code from the first Web-
4   Server configured to cause the client to be redirected to the second
5   Web-Server using HTTP redirection.

1   Claim 25. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2   7, wherein the database is a cookie coordination database.

1   Claim 26. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2   7, further comprising sending a HTTP response code from the first web
3   server configured to cause the client to be redirected to the second
4   web server using HTTP redirection.

1   Claim 27. (previously presented) An apparatus as recited in
2   claim 11, further comprising:
3   wherein the database is a cookie coordination database; and
4   wherein means for the first web server directing the client to
5   access the resource at the second web server includes means for sending
6   the client a link to the second web server.

1   Claim 28. (previously presented) An apparatus as recited in
2 claim 11, further comprising means for sending a HTTP response code
3 from the first web server configured to cause the client to be
4 redirected to the second web server using HTTP redirection.

1   Claim 29. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2 14, further comprising:
3   wherein the database is a cookie coordination database; and
4   wherein directing the client to access the resource at the second
5 user tracker includes sending the client a link to the resource.

1   Claim 30. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2 14, further comprising sending a HTTP response code from the first user
3 tracker configured to cause the client to be redirected to the second
4 user tracker using HTTP redirection.

1   Claim 31. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim
2 18, further comprising sending a HTTP response code from the first web
3 server configured to cause the client to be redirected to the second
4 web server using HTTP redirection.

1   Claim 32. (previously presented) A apparatus as recited in
2 claim 21, wherein the redirector is configured to send a HTTP response
3 code from the first web server configured to cause the client to be
4 redirected to the second web server using HTTP redirection.